

Fifteenth Biennial Silver Haired Legislative Session



**August 23 & 24, 2006 State Capitol
Little Rock, Arkansas**

What is the SHLS

The Silver Haired Legislative Session (SHLS) is a mock legislature of senior delegates that has convened every two years since 1978. The 2006 session will take place on August 23 & 24 at the Arkansas State Capitol. The session is held with the permission of the Arkansas General Assembly and sponsored by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Division of Aging and Adult Services in partnership with the Arkansas Area Agencies on Aging.

What is the purpose of the SHLS

The SHLS provides an opportunity for senior Arkansans to:

- learn about the legislative process and become more effective advocates for all seniors in the state
- bring the issues and concerns of senior Arkansans to the attention of the Arkansas General Assembly and the general public
- have legislation passed during the SHLS that may become actual Arkansas law

Where can I get more information about the SHLS

For more information about the SHLS please contact your local Area Agency on Aging or the DHHS Division of Aging and Adult Services.

Questions and Answers About SHLS

Who is eligible to serve as a SHLS delegate

Any resident of Arkansas who is 60 years of age or older, and is not an employee of the DHHS Division of Aging and Adult Services or an Area Agency on Aging, may serve as an SHLS delegate. One candidate from each county will be elected to the Silver Haired Legislature, and three repeat delegates will be appointed by each Area Agency on Aging. Area Agencies may use other methods of soliciting delegates if a sufficient number of candidates do not voluntarily seek participation.

Can SHLS delegates serve more than one term

Yes, a candidate who has served in previous Silver Haired Legislatures may run again to be a SHLS delegate or may serve repeated terms as an appointed delegate.

How does a candidate qualify to run for SHLS delegate

A potential SHLS candidate must complete a County Candidate Petition by collecting the signatures of 25 residents of his or her county who are 60 or older. Completed petitions must be submitted to the Area Agency on Aging for certification no later than March 15, 2006.

How are delegates elected

The Area Agency on Aging will notify certified candidates of the date and location of the election meeting held in the candidate's home county. Candidates must be present at the county election.

Voting is by secret ballot. County voters must be 60 years old or older, residents of the county in which they are voting, and vote in person. Absentee balloting may be available in some regions. The candidate receiving the most votes will become the SHLS delegate for that county, and the candidate with the second highest number of votes will serve as alternate.

What does a Silver Haired Delegate or Alternate Do

The 2006 SHLS delegates and alternates will attend a two-day training session to learn about the legislative process and prepare for their work as delegates. They will meet again in a one-day bill writing session. All delegates will attend the Fifteenth Biennial Silver Haired Legislative Session in Little Rock at the State Capitol on August 23, & 24, 2006. Alternates may observe the SHLS, but do not participate in voting. A trained alternate may be called on to serve as a delegate if a delegate from the same region is unable to participate.

What happens on the days of the Silver Haired Legislative Session

On the first day, delegates attend a luncheon in the Capitol Rotunda, then adjourn to committee rooms where the bills are introduced, debated, and fine tuned to pieces of legislation that will be voted on the following day. On the second day, the delegates meet in the House of Representatives, participate in opening ceremonies, introduce their bills, debate, amend, and vote on their legislation. The bills and resolutions that passed are sent to all members of the Arkansas General Assembly.

What are the Expenses Associated with Participating in the SHLS

The expenses for delegate participation in the training, bill writing, and the Capitol session will be reimbursed by the Area Agencies and the Division of Aging and Adult Services according to their usual volunteer reimbursement rate.

**2006 Arkansas Silver Haired Legislative Session
Official Petition For County Candidate
Form Must Be Returned to AAA by March 15, 2006**

Candidate's Name _____ phone (____) _____

Address _____ City _____ ZIP _____

*Signing petition verifies you are sixty or older and
a resident of _____ county*

NAME

Address

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
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10. _____
11. _____
12. _____
13. _____
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19. _____
20. _____
21. _____
22. _____
23. _____
24. _____
25. _____

Form may be detached for mailing/Form may be duplicated

Arkansas Area Agencies on Aging

REGION I

AAA of NW AR
1510 Rock Springs Rd
PO Box 1795
Harrison AR 72602-1795
Phone: (870) 741-1144
Toll Free: 1-800-432-9721

REGION II

WHITE RIVER AAA
3998 Harrison Street
PO Box 2637
Batesville AR 72503
Phone: (870) 612-3000
Toll Free: 1-800-382-3205

REGION III

EAST AAA
2005 E Highland/Fountain Sq
PO Box 5035
Jonesboro, AR 72403-5035
Phone: (870) 972-5980
Toll Free: 1-800-467-3278

REGION IV

SOUTHEAST AAA
709 East 8th
PO Box 8569
Pine Bluff AR 71611
Phone: (870) 543-6300
Toll Free: 1-800-264-3260

REGION V

CareLink
706 West 4th Street
PO Box 5988
North Little Rock AR 72119-5988
Phone: (501) 372-5300
Toll Free: 1-800-482-6359

REGION VI

AAA of WC Arkansas
905 W. Grand Avenue
Hot Springs AR 71913
Phone: (501) 321-2811
Toll Free: 1-800-467-2170

REGION VII

SOUTHWEST AAA
600 Columbia 11E
PO Box 1863
Magnolia, AR 71754-1863
Phone: (870) 234-7410
Toll Free: 1-800-272-2127

REGION VIII

WESTERN AAA
524 Garrison Ave
PO Box 1724
Fort Smith AR 72902
Phone: (479) 783-4500
Toll Free: 1-800-320-6667

**Arkansas Department of Health & Human Services
Division of Aging and Adult Services
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Little Rock AR 72203-1437
(501) 682-2441**